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Letter dated 13 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to make a request to the Security Council to timely lend its support to the Government and people of Zambia with regard to the disarming and repatriation of the Rwandan ex-Forces armées rwandaise (FAR) and Interahamwe forces currently on Zambian territory as part of the armed mixed groups from Kabila's forces and his allies that fled the Democratic Republic of the Congo after heavy fighting they themselves had earlier provoked in Pweto.

These ex-FAR and Interahamwe forces are not bona fide refugees to be dealt with by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. They are armed forces now out in the open and in their thousands, and clearly described by the Lusaka Agreement. We strongly wish to see our nationals disarmed, demobilized and repatriated to Rwanda.

Our main concern, and this should be the Security Council's also, is that, if allowed to go back to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, these armed forces will fuel more war in the region and particularly in the Congo itself. It is our collective responsibility to avoid this happening and we believe that this is the time for the Security Council to decisively take action on the case of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and get the Lusaka Agreement fully implemented.

Rwanda continues to support Lusaka and will treat the Rwandan negative forces as anybody else who surrenders. From past experiences, those who surrender come and get integrated according to our policies and to the letter of the Lusaka Agreement. Those suspected of taking part in the 1994 genocide can be sent directly to the International Criminal Tribunal in Arusha. The Prosecutor's Office which knows whom it wants for potential indictment should consequently be allowed to screen the fugitives and get the ones they legally want to pursue.

I would appreciate it if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council for information and appropriate action.

(*Signed*) Joseph W. **Mutaboba**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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